The Properties of the 2MASS Field L Dwarf Population

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The Two Micron All-Sky Survey (2MASS) has enabled the identification of one hundred nearby cool objects belonging to the new L dwarf spectral class. I argue that the relation between temperature and spectral class is now strongly constrained. Observables such as the fraction of L dwarfs with lithium, the space density, and the kinematics allow the ages and masses of the L dwarf population to be modeled. I discuss the fraction of L dwarfs which are actually brown dwarfs and the best current value of the substellar mass function.

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